



# The Hour

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### THE HOUR SCOOPS VON CLEMM STORY

Published Details on Nazi Smuggling Ring in May, 1941, Naming  
 U. S. Firms Involved With German Agent Von Clemm

On January 28 a Federal Grand Jury in New York City indicted Werner von Clemm on charges of conspiring with the German High Command to bring illegal shipments of gems into the United States for the purposes of financing subversive activities in this country and in South America. The indictment named as co-conspirators; the Pioneer Import Corporation, which Von Clemm heads; Carl von Clemm, a German emissary in Italy; Carlos Hoepner, European vice-president of Pioneer Import, now in Germany; and Ernst Cremer, manager of the German Army Diamond Control Office, official agency of the Nazis in the low countries.

On May 24, 1941, eight months before the indictment was handed down, The Hour carried a three-page story entitled, "Diamond Shipments To U. S. Aiding Nazi Cause," in which we revealed that precious and semi-precious stones were being brought secretly into this country by Werner von Clemm and his Pioneer Import Corporation as a means of obtaining foreign exchange in the U. S. for the Nazis.

We stated in our May 24 issue, "Many of the stones being imported were seized by the Nazis when Belgium, Holland and France were invaded; others are apparently being obtained from Vichy-controlled colonies. The merchandise is now reaching America via South Africa. ... The Italian airline brings most of them. Once the stones have arrived in South America, they are usually flown up the West Coast to Los Angeles and San Francisco. ... The funds thus secured in the United States can be used for various Nazi purposes, not the least of which may be financing propaganda and espionage activities in America."

### Other Firms Involved

In our article we reported that Pioneer Import Corporation, controlled and financed from Berlin, was not the only firm in the United States with which Von Clemm was intimately connected in his import operations. We named two other companies, in each of which Von Clemm holds a directorship: American Machine and Equipment Co., Inc., 161 Duane St., New York City; and International Mortgage and Investment Corporation, 70 Pine St., New York City. We pointed out that both of these firms are involved in the import business and have contacts in the Third Reich.

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Still another firm involved in the Nazi import network is Jungmann & Co., Importers and Exporters of Chemicals, Drugs and Raw Materials, 157 Chambers St., New York City. President of Jungmann & Co. is Paul Guetschow. Guetschow happens also to be one of the three directors of Pioneer Import Corporation.

#### Von Clemm's Connections With America First

An interesting sidelight to Von Clemm's pro-Nazi propaganda activities in this country was his association with the America First Committee. This key Nazi agent carried on an intimate behind-the-scenes relationship with the New York Chapter of the Committee. He not only served as a propaganda strategist for this group, but he also gave it financial support. Government authorities might learn some interesting details of this relationship by consulting Edwin S. Webster, former key man in the New York Chapter.

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#### ITALIAN FASCIST ON NEW YORK RADIO STATION

A notorious Italian fascist, who boasts of being one of the original founders of the Fascist Party in Italy, is broadcasting every day from Station WOV at 730 Fifth Avenue in New York City. His name is Ignio Mannecchia. His official title at WOV is that of "Italian Announcer." He supervises the daily Italian-language broadcast at 3:30 P.M.

For some time Mannecchia has been one of Mussolini's key propagandists in the United States. In 1935 he edited in New York City a newspaper, Voice of Italy, which acted as a U. S. mouthpiece for the Rome Propaganda Ministry. The following excerpts from an article by Mannecchia, which appeared in Voice of Italy on July 6, 1935, indicate the character of the paper:

"Liberty is impossible until a force stronger than capitalism and communism appears as arbiter and peace maker; this force is the State ... Fascism! The anti-bourgeois and anti-Socialist revolution. The force that sweeps out the vegetative and animal-life life of the pacific digestion ... and substitutes for it a life of work, a missionary life."

Another item by Mannecchia, printed in the same paper on September 14, 1935, stated:

"Ten million bayonets in a few days will show to the world that the Italy of Mussolini has determined to open a path in the world. And she will succeed in it."

The paper regularly featured pictures of Il Duce, Count Ciano, and other Italian fascist satellites.

#### Aiding the "Mussolinian State"

As an ardent promoter of Mussolini's interests in the United States, Mannecchia did not limit his services to propaganda activity. Be-



believing that "The Mussolinian State is a reality that shines all over, bringing overseas its light," he closely collaborated with fascist Italian organizations seeking to import Il Duce's regime to this continent. In this work he assisted Count Ignazio Thaon De Revel, organizer of the Fascist League of North America, who, in 1935, was appointed by Mussolini himself to head of the Fascist Clubs abroad. When Revel received this appointment, Manneccchia enthusiastically declared in his newspaper Voice of Italy: "Count De Revel is a Black Shirt of long standing. The New York Fascists send through the medium of the VOICE OF ITALY sincerest congratulations to comrade Revel."

Another aspect of Manneccchia's pro-Axis work in this country was stirring up animosity against President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Typical of his malicious attacks on the President of the United States was an article entitled The President Dictator, which was printed in Voice of Italy on November 16, 1935. The article contained such statements as the following:

"We see rotogravure pictures featuring a toothy and stereotyped smile, too reminiscent of another smile [President Wilson's] which through sheer fanaticism brought upon this tormented world a misery which still endures. ... These arrogant empiricists [The Roosevelt Administration] who are unable to lead their own ... are now making the pretense of seizing the direction of world affairs for the sole purpose of bluffing their electors into believing that they are great, no matter what their showing-off may cost humanity."

#### Work at WOV

In July, 1936, Voice of Italy suspended publication. Sometime afterwards Manneccchia, reportedly through the intervention of Italian Ambassador Don Colonna, secured the position of Radio Censor at Station WOV. The programs at the station immediately became notorious for their fascist propaganda content. Plugs for Il Duce interpolated musical programs, news-broadcasts, dramatic features and advertisements. The anti-democratic nature of the broadcasts was thoroughly exposed in a number of articles in the New York press, the most comprehensive of which appeared in an anti-fascist Italian-language paper Il Mondo. On October 13, 1939, the Times reported that, according to a survey conducted by the American Council on Public Affairs, Station WOV was serving as a propaganda outlet for the Italian fascists. The attention of the Federal Communications Commission was called to the situation at WOV, and Manneccchia was compelled to resign from his job. The reason given for his resignation was "lack of citizenship."

Strangely enough, although his role as a fascist propagandist had been thoroughly exposed, Manneccchia remained as an announcer at Station WOV; he is still there.

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## TOWNSEND INDICTMENT

On January 28 the Federal Grand Jury in Washington, D. C., indicted six men -- three American citizens and three Japanese nationals -- on charges of distributing pro-Japanese propaganda in violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Among the American citizens indicted was Ralph Townsend of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

On November 23, 1940, in an article entitled "Japan Intensifies Propaganda Activities In U. S.," The Hour published its first report on Ralph Townsend. "The native U. S. Fifth Column is performing yeoman service for the Japanese," we wrote. "Outstanding in this field is Ralph Townsend of San Francisco, California ... Townsend, who receives regular orders from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce for quantity lots of his pamphlets, is an expert at describing the saintly qualities of Japanese imperialism." We went on to point out that Father Charles E. Coughlin, James True and other U. S. fascists were making considerable use of the Townsend pro-Axis material.

On October 25, 1941, we reported that Townsend had recently helped organize a Committee on Pacific Relations, which we characterized as a "pro-Japanese agency." (By this time, Townsend had moved from San Francisco to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, in order that he might cooperate more closely with the America First Committee and its mouthpiece, Scribner's Commentator. The Japanese agent joined the editorial board of this magazine, as well as that of The Herald, the AFC newspaper. Townsend also served as a public speaker for the AFC.)

The names of the other members of the Committee on Pacific Relations are now of particular interest. They are William J. Baxter of New York City, author of such pro-Japanese works as Japan and America MUST Get Together; Reverend John Cole McKimm of Peekskill, N. Y., a columnist of The Japanese American Review, a propaganda agency for Tokyo; Dr. Payson J. Treat of Stanford University, a contributor to The Japanese American Review; and O. K. Armstrong, former chairman of Verne Marshall's notorious appeasement group, No Foreign War Committee. (All of these gentlemen worked closely with the America First Committee and several of them were officers in it.) The Hour urges that the Federal Grand Jury in Washington thoroughly investigate the membership of the Committee on Pacific Relations.

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## NOTE ON CAPTAIN PATRICK SMITH

On December 21, 1940, The Hour reported that a Captain Patrick Smith of New Canaan, Connecticut, was traveling around the country delivering violently anti-Chinese and pro-Japanese lectures, and that he was making a number of fraudulent claims to substantiate his self-given title of "America's best authority on Asia." The Hour now learns that the Captain is still lecturing, but that he has temporarily altered the content of his talks to meet the present situation. His latest lecture, delivered at the Rotary Club in Norwalk, Connecticut, was entitled "Japan Can and Will be Beaten."

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